Project Overview

"The best way to address children, youth and young adult (CYYA) homelessness is to work upstream with these individuals, their families, neighborhoods, government, education, child welfare, juvenile justice, foster care, health, to prevent its occurrence in the first place."
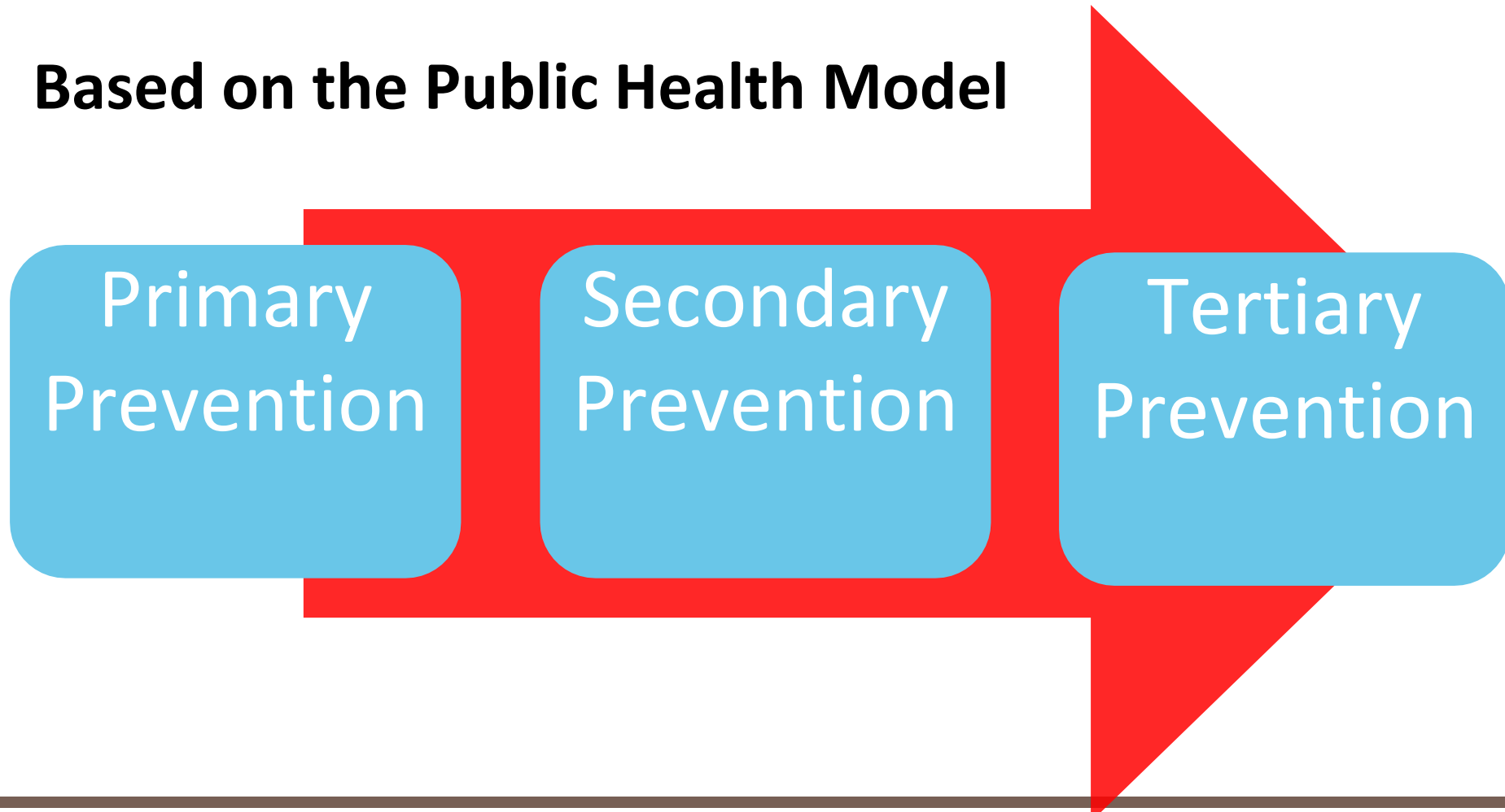
The Strengthening Communities Project
| The Coalition for the Homeless | Joe McNealy

Impact of Children, Youth and Young Adult Homelessness

- Experience multiple episodes of homelessness

- Health declines

- Mental health deteriorates

- Exploitation

- Greater risk of Addictions

- Trauma & Victimization

- Involvement with the Law

- Entrenchment in Street Life

- School Dropout

- Twice as likely to go hungry

- Twice as likely as others to repeat a school grade, be expelled or suspended
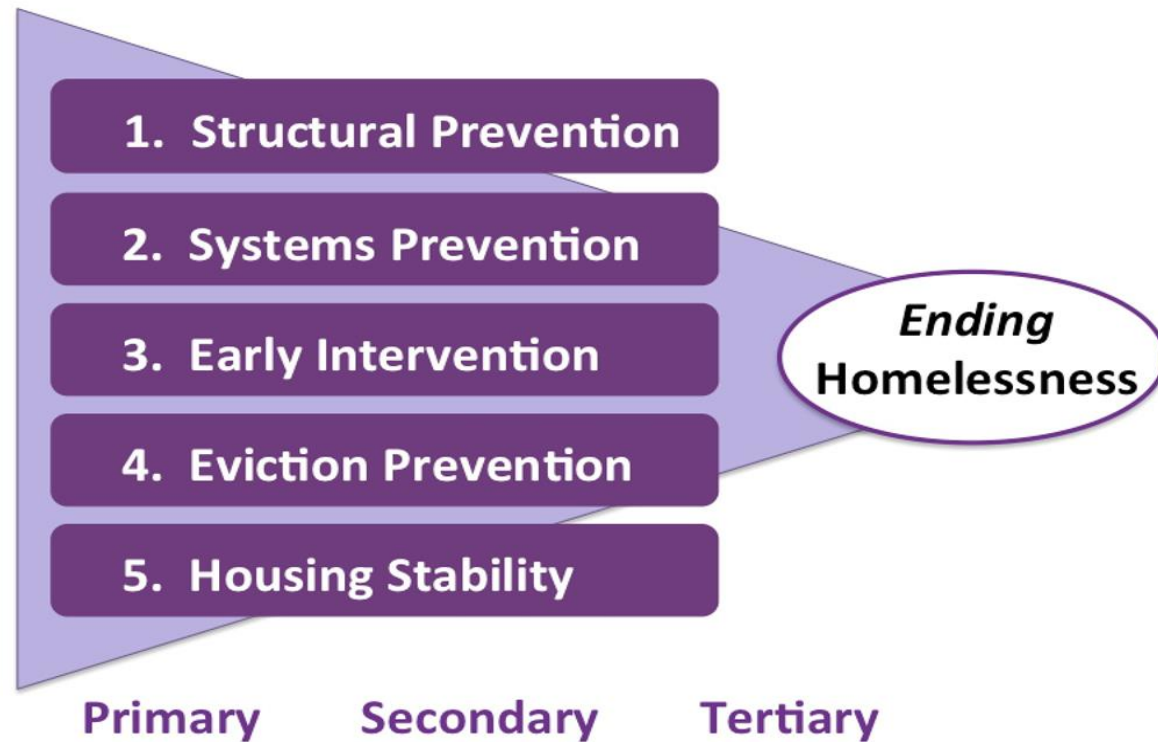
- Experience poorer quality of life
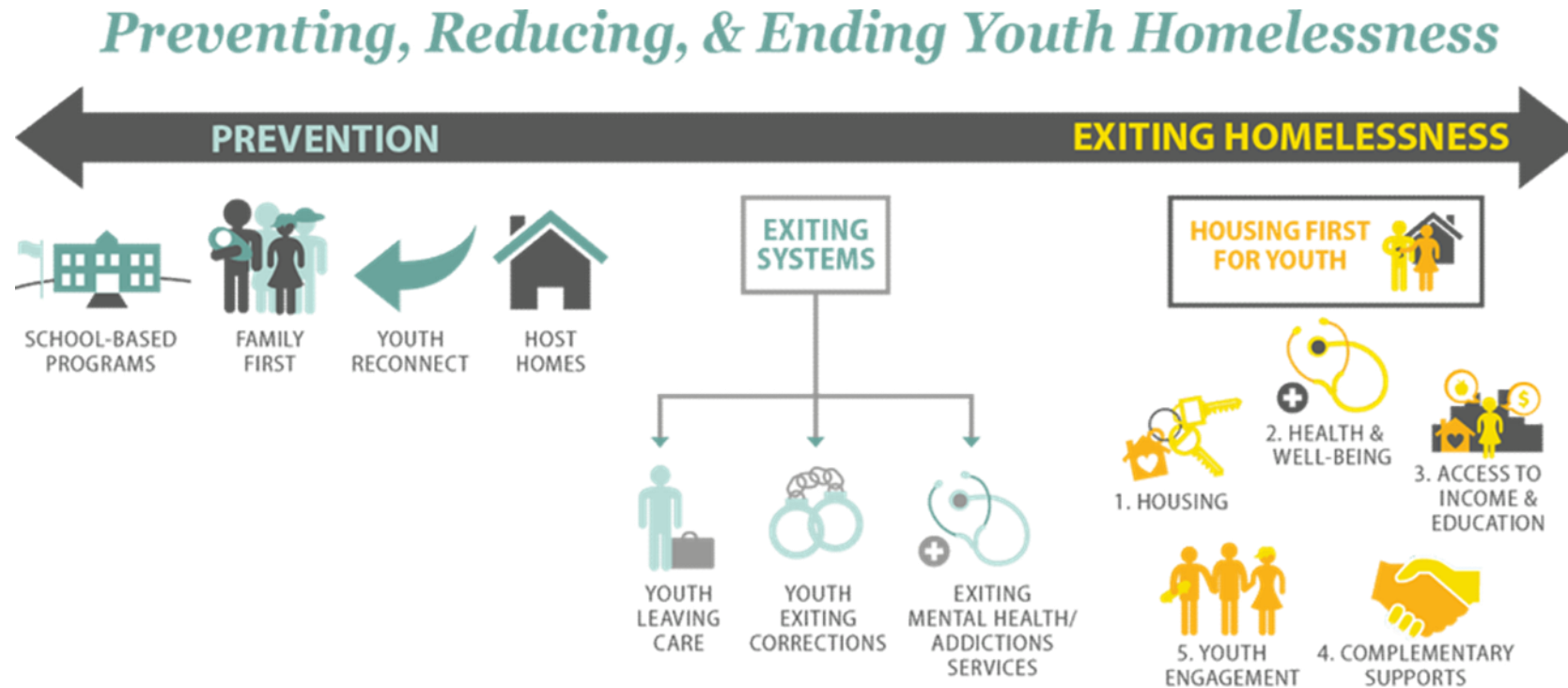
Homelessness Prevention

Based on the Public Health Model

Primary Prevention

Secondary Prevention

Tertiary Prevention

Typology of Homelessness Prevention

Typology of Homelessness Prevention

1. Structural Prevention
2. Systems Prevention
3. Early Intervention
4. Eviction Prevention
5. Housing Stability

Ending Homelessness

Primary   Secondary   Tertiary

Prevention-Based Interventions

Preventing, Reducing, & Ending Youth Homelessness

Description

- The Strengthening Communities Project (TSCP) will take innovative approaches developed in Australia and adapt them to Louisville/Jefferson County

  - The Geelong Project (TGP) *pronounced – "jee-long project"*.

- Working with schools and state and local agencies and governments, TSCP will identify students who are at-risk and connect them with the wraparound supports they need.

How does it work?

1. Collective Impact – involves a group of relevant actors from different sectors working together to address a major challenge by developing and working toward a common goal that fundamentally changes outcomes for a population. (The Early Intervention Working Group)

2. Early Identification – universal survey for all CYYAs. Asks about their life at school, home and everywhere else.

3. Construct an Interagency Person-Centered Outcomes Focused IT Platform

4. Targeted Service Delivery

Collective Impact

Getting the right people at the table:

— State Interagency Council (SIAC)

— JCPS Administrators, Board and Site-Based Decision Making Councils (SBDMs)

— University of Louisville and Spalding University
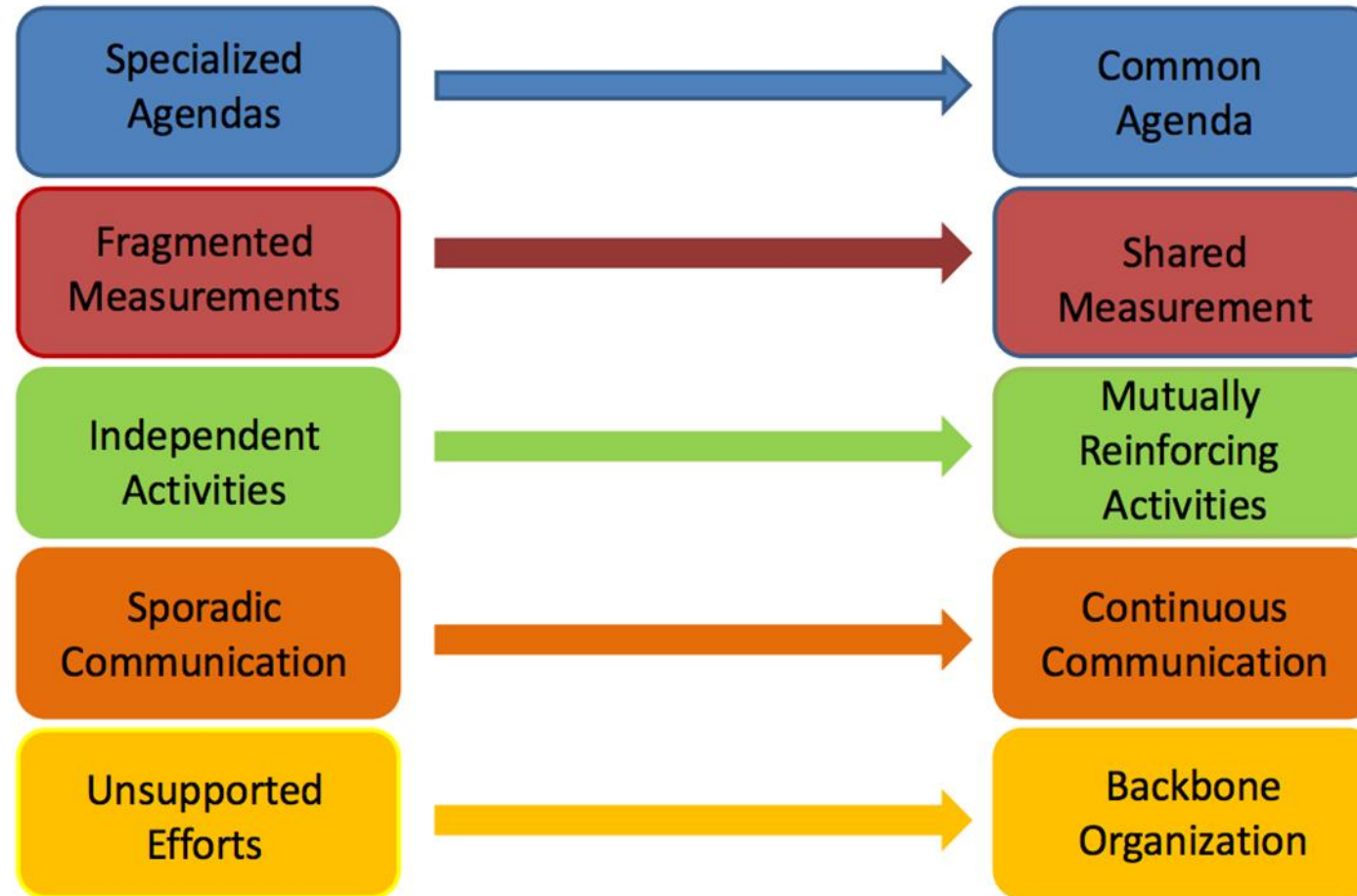
— Youth and Young Adults

Work toward a common goal:

— Change the way we respond to the issue

Collaboration is **_NOT_** the same as
Collective Impact

Preconditions

For Collective Impact

1. **Influential Leaders**

2. **A Sense of Urgency**

3. **Building Trust**

4. **Adequate Resources**

Essential Mindset Shifts for Collective Impact

Kania, J. Hanley Brown, F, Splansky Juster, J. (2014) Essential Mindset Shifts for Collective Impact. *Stanford Social Innovation Review* Fall 2014

Mindset Shift One:
Who is Involved

Get all *the right eyes on the problem*

Agree to work towards a common goal

Mindset Shift Two:
How people work together

- *The relational is as important as the rational*

- *Structure is as important as strategy*

- *Sharing credit is MORE IMPORTANT than taking credit*

Mindset Shift Three:
How Progress Happens

Pay attention to adaptive work, not just technical solutions

Look for silver buckshot instead of the silver bullet

Identify the innovative solutions that are out there

A Proposed Collective Impact

We can only achieve our goal of preventing children, youth and young adult homelessness by working together.

Why Schools?

- School-based Prevention

Virtually every young person who becomes homeless was in school at one point and was very likely in contact with an adult (teacher, guidance counselor, coach, FRYSC) who knew something was wrong.
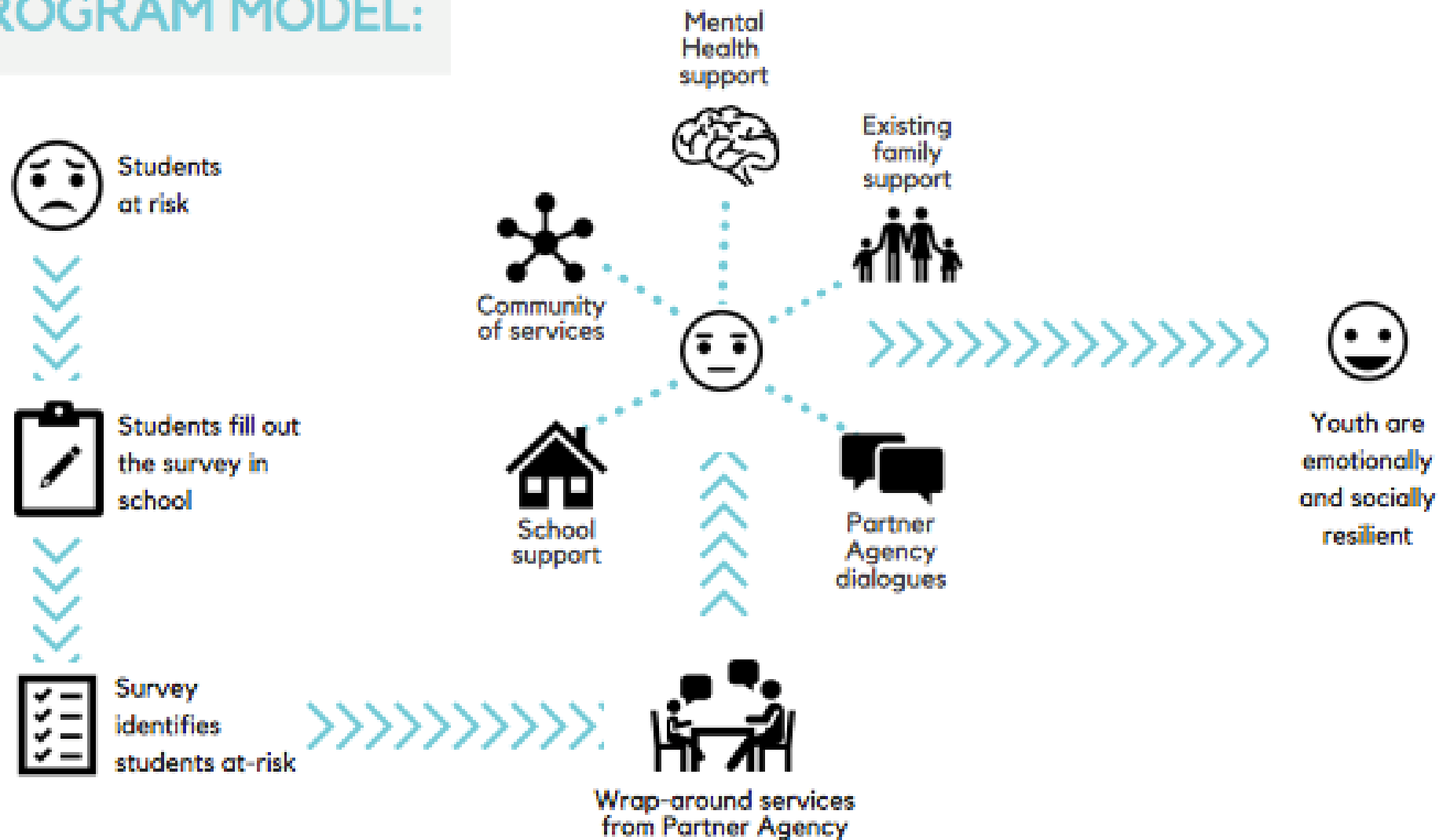
Project Goals

- Preventing Children, Youth and Young Adult homelessness before it begins.

- Transform the way we respond to CYYA homelessness by shifting the focus to prevention.

- Noticeably reduce school drop-out rates, family breakdown and involvement in crime.

- Significantly increase school engagement, graduation rates and access to safe stable housing.

- Reduce the number of CYYAs who experience homelessness.

Pilot Program

- Select five schools (i.e. 2 middle, 2 high schools and an alternative school)

- All students grade 6 – 12 will be asked to participate in the pilot project

- Identify risk factors through the Needs Survey

PROGRAM MODEL:

Students at risk

Students fill out the survey in school

Survey identifies students at-risk

Mental Health support

Community of services

Existing family support

School support

Partner Agency dialogues

Wrap-around services from Partner Agency

Youth are emotionally and socially resilient

Community Outputs

OUTPUTS

Participation	Activities	Reform
SBDM – provide opportunity to survey students	Youth Outreach	Stronger partnerships
Refer identified students to social service agencies for support services	Family centered intervention	Enhanced Family Capacity
Ongoing student monitoring	Integrated case management	Enhanced Interagency Data-Sharing System
Key Stakeholders Involvement	Brokerage	Links to the Community

Population Screening

- Needs Survey is a 4-page survey

- It is comprised of 43 questions measuring: self esteem, resilience, psychological distress, self efficacy, connectedness to home, connectedness to school and community

- The survey contains an at-risk of homelessness indicator, a risk of disengagement from school indicator, a resilience scale and several questions about mental health/psychological issues and drug and alcohol behaviors. The two main indicators are about 'risk of homelessness' and 'risk of disengagement from school.'

Targeted Service Delivery

Core principles:

Outcome Measurement

- Youth and Case Workers will chart the student's progress using a case management measurement tool

Outcome Measurement

- Every 6 months students receiving case management will complete a condensed version of the Needs Survey

Program Evaluation

- The Strengthening Communities Project will work with a third-party evaluator to measure our defined evaluation metrics

- The evaluation will consider a variety of data sources

- The final evaluation will take place at the conclusion of the pilot phase of the project

Can we **ALL** work together to **END** Children, Youth and Young Adult **Homelessness**?